WHAT IS CLAIMED:

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (Amended) In an artificial limb for amputees who have a residual limb, the residual limb being encased in a liner, the residual limb and liner being inserted into an artificial limb socket having a space between the liner and the socket, an apparatus for wicking away perspiration from the residual limb, the apparatus comprising: an osmotic membrane to encase the residual limb and adapted for placement between the residual limb and the liner, thereby creating a space between the residual limb and the liner, the membrane being adapted to allow the passage of water vapor in one direction only, from the residual limb towards the liner, further comprising:

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(a) a vacuum source connected to the space between the liner and the residual limb and to the space between the liner and the socket, wherein application of the vacuum source to the space between the liner and the residual limb lowers the partial water vapor pressure in the space, allowing water vapor to pass more readily through the osmotic membrane, and wherein application of the vacuum between the liner and the socket draws the residual limb and liner into total contact with the socket interior;

(b) a seal means for sealing the space; and

(c) a means to maintain a vacuum in the space, in the presence of some air leakage past the seal means.

Please cancel claim 2.

Please cancel claim 3.

Please amend claim 4 as follows:

4. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the seal means further comprises a nonfoamed, nonporous polyurethane suspension sleeve for rolling over and covering the socket and a portion of the residual limb.

Please amend claim 5 as follows:

5. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the vacuum source is a vacuum pump and the means to maintain the vacuum in the cavity is a regulator, and further comprising a power source for the vacuum pump and the regulator.

Please amend claim 6 as follows:

6. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the vacuum source and the means to maintain the vacuum in the cavity further comprise a weight-actuated vacuum pump.